

Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs

Annual Report 2002



State of Michigan, John Engler, Governor
Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs
Marylou Olivarez-Mason, Executive Director
Michigan Department of Career Development
Dr. Barbara Bolin, Director

Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs Commissioners

Manuel Alfonso, Auburn Hills
Nelida Bravo, White Lake
Randall Fernandez, Port Huron
George Fierro, Hamilton
Carlos Hidalgo, Grand Rapids
Emily Martinez, Blissfield
Johnny Morales, Lansing
Maria Gutierrez-Ostrander, DeWitt
Mariano Pallares, Southfield
Sergio Paneque, Laingsburg
Frances Plets, Clinton Township
Anna Maria Rodriguez, Detroit
Juanita Sylvia Rogers, Northport
John Sanchez, Bridgeport
Ricardo Verdoni, Saginaw

Commission Staff

Marylou Olivarez-Mason, Executive Director
Victoria Potter, Administrative Assistant

Commission Interns

Miguel Terc
Julie Wescott
Margaret Prunte

Executive Committee

Mariano Pallares, Chairperson
Ricardo Verdoni, Vice Chairperson
Manuel Alfonso, Secretary
Nelida Bravo, Trustee
George Fierro, Trustee

Standing and Ad Hoc Committees

Education	George Fierro
Migrant/Agriculture	Emily Martinez
Business/Economic Development	Manuel Alfonso Mariano Pallares
Elderly/Health	Emily Martinez Frances Plets
Translations	Mariano Pallares Nelida Bravo Ricardo Verdoni

Governor's Office Liaison

Kimberly Harding

Legislative Liaison

State Senator Valde Garcia

Commissioners

Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs

Public Act 164 of 1975

The Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs was created in 1975 for the purpose of developing policies and plans of action to serve, be an advocate for, and represent the needs of the Hispanic communities within Michigan.

The Commission by statute, P.A. 164 of 1975, is directed to:

- n Advise the governor and the legislature concerning the coordination and administration of state programs serving Hispanics.
- n Make recommendations to the governor and the legislature regarding changes in state programs, statutes, and policies.
- n Advise the governor and legislature of the nature, magnitude, and priorities of the problems of Hispanics. Review and advise the governor and the legislature on the state's policies concerning Hispanic affairs.
- n Review and approve grants to be made from federal, state or private funds, which are administered by the office.
- n Secure appropriate recognition of Hispanic accomplishments and contributions to this state.
- n Review and approve the Annual Report by the Office of Spanish-Speaking Affairs.

The policies of the Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs are carried out by the Office of Spanish-Speaking Affairs, which is directed by statute to:

- n Conduct studies and recommend solutions to the problems of Hispanics in the areas of education, employment, civil rights, health, housing, senior citizens, and other related areas.
- n Recommend to federal, state, and local governmental departments and agencies the creation of services and facilities as needed.
- n Apply for and accept grants and gifts from governmental departments and agencies to assure that Hispanics have access to decision-making bodies, the policies of which affect Hispanics in this state.
- n Cooperate with departments and agencies to aid in effectuating the purposes of this act.
- n Submit a full written report of its activities and recommendations each year to the governor, legislature, and various Hispanic communities throughout the state.
- n Serve as a clearinghouse of information about Hispanics.

The governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoints the members of the Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs for three-year terms. The 15 Commissioners are of Hispanic origin and are representative of the Michigan Hispanic population.

La Comisión de Asuntos Hispanos de Michigan Acto Publico 164 de 1975

La Comisión de Asuntos Hispánicos fue creada en el año 1975 con el propósito de desarrollar regulaciones y planes de acción que proporcionen servicios, defiendan los derechos y enfoquen las necesidades de las comunidades Hispánicas de Michigan.

El Acto Público 164 de 1975 dirige a la Comisión a:

- n Aconsejar al Gobernador, la Legislatura, y la Oficina en relación a la coordinación y administración de los programas estatales que prestan servicios a los Hispanos.
- n Hacer recomendaciones al Gobernador y a la Legislatura en relación a cambios en los programas, estatutos y regulaciones estatales.
- n Aconsejar al Gobernador y a la Legislatura sobre la naturaleza, magnitud y prioridades de problemas que afectan a los Hispanos. Repasar y asesorar al Gobernador y a la Legislatura sobre las políticas estatales que afecten a los Hispanos.
- n Repasar y aprobar las donaciones hechas con fondos federales, estatales o privados, las cuales son administradas por la Oficina.
- n Asegurar el reconocimiento apropiado de los éxitos y contribuciones de los Hispanos por todo el estado de Michigan.
- n Repasar y aprobar el Reporte Annual preparado por la Oficina de Asuntos Hispánicos.

Las políticas de la Comisión de Asuntos Hispánicos son implementadas por la Oficina de Asuntos Hispánicos, la cual está dirigida por el estatuto a:

- n Conducir estudios y recomendar soluciones para los problemas de los Hispanos en las áreas de educación, empleo, derechos civiles, salud, vivienda, ancianidad, y otras áreas relacionadas.
- n Recomendar a los departamentos y agencias del gobierno federal, estatal y local, la creación de servicios y facilidades que sean necesarios.
- n Solicitar y aceptar donaciones y regalos de fuentes gubernamentales y privadas para asegurarse que los Hispanos tengan acceso a órganos legislativos que dictan leyes que afectan a los Hispanos en el estado de Michigan.
- n Cooperar con los departamentos y agencias que ayudan a implementar los propósitos de esta Acta.
- n Someter un reporte escrito anual de sus actividades y recomendaciones al Gobernador, a la Legislatura, y a las varias comunidades Hispánicas del estado de Michigan.
- n Servir como un centro de recopilación, distribución y referencia de información sobre asuntos Hispánicos.

El Gobernador, con el consejo y consentimiento del Senado, nombra a los miembros de la Comisión por términos de tres años. Los 15 comisionados son de origen Hispánico y representan a la población Hispánica de Michigan.

Public Act 164 of 1975

Background Information on Hispanic Americans

Who are the Hispanic Americans?

The United States government defines “Hispanic” as “a self-designated classification for people whose origins are from Spain, the Spanish-speaking countries of Central or South America, the Caribbean, or those identifying themselves generally as Spanish, Spanish-American, etc. Origin can be viewed as ancestry, nationality, or country of birth of the person or person’s parents or ancestors prior to their arrival in the United States. Spanish/Hispanic/Latino people may be of any race.” According to the 2000 census, the three largest groups in Michigan are those of Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Cuban origin.

Just as there is a wide variety of Hispanic groups, there is a variety of terms these groups use to refer to themselves. The term Hispanic is a general term that includes all these groups. Some prefer the term Latino instead of Hispanic. Other Hispanic Americans refer to themselves by their particular group—that is, Cuban American, Mexican American, Puerto Rican, etc. Some Mexican Americans prefer the term Chicano.

How many Americans are Hispanic?

The 2000 census revealed there were 35.3 million Hispanic Americans in the United States (that is 12.5 percent of the country’s total population of 281.4 million). The census bureau estimates there will be 43.7 million Hispanics by the year 2010 and 55.2 million by 2020. By 2003, 12.7 percent of the U.S. population will be Hispanic, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Hispanic population is increasing quickly. Much of the population increase is due to immigration, mostly from Mexico. A second reason is the high birthrate among Hispanics.

Have you heard about Hispanic Heritage Month?

Many Americans still have not, since it is a relatively new celebration. Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15–October 15, was set by Presidential Proclamation to commemorate the contributions made by Hispanics throughout our nation’s history. It is a month to reflect not only on the past, but also on the future role of Hispanics in the United States.

On September 17, 1968, the U.S. Congress, by joint resolution, approved, authorized, and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating National Hispanic Heritage Week. In 1988, U.S. Congressional Hispanic Caucus Chairman Congressman Esteban Torres introduced legislation requesting the extension of the commemorative period to one month. The bill passed and it was enacted into Public Law on August 17, 1988.

Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrated in Michigan

A gala event at Michigan's State Capitol on September 25, 2002, celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month 2002. Hundreds of participants enjoyed the festivities, including Hispanic foods, music, and street banners surrounding the Capitol building and along downtown streets.

Accompanied by the sounds of local musicians, and authentic Mexican food, one of the highlights of the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration at the State Capitol was the Awards and Scholarship Dinner sponsored by the Hispanic Legislative Caucus. This year's event honored seven individuals for their community achievements.

The Outstanding Hispanic Arts Award was given to **Andrea Lazano** of Clarkston, owner of the Art of Living art gallery in Lake Orion. She volunteers at public schools, where she shares her vast knowledge of Hispanic culture.

Enrique and **Consuelo Ayala** of Wyoming were honored with the Outstanding Hispanic Business/Economic Development Award for establishing the first "Super Mercado" for area Hispanic residents.

Miguel Angel Osorio, owner of a grocery store and restaurant in Traverse City, was given the Outstanding Hispanic Advocate/Civic Duty Award for serving as a translator, provider to the hungry, and bus driver when his neighbors need transportation.

The Outstanding Hispanic Educator Award was presented to **Dr. Miguel De La Torre**, a member of the Hope College faculty, for numerous achievements and activities, including the writing of a regular column for *The Holland Sentinel*.

John Paul Torres of Auburn Hills was given the Outstanding Hispanic Youth Leadership Award for inspiring inner-city youth to go to college, and for organizing a youth leadership program.

The Outstanding Hispanic Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to **Lupita Reyes** of Holland for achievements in the areas of interpreting, fair housing, and Hispanic radio broadcasting.

In addition, five Hispanic high school students from across the state were awarded college scholarships by the Hispanic Legislative Caucus. The scholarship money came from many large corporations in support of Hispanic Heritage Month. **San Juana Olivares** of Flint, and **Jessica Gomez** of Lansing each received \$1,000. **Vanessa Leal** of Saginaw, **Efrain Munoz** of Holland, and **Diana Vargas** of Holland each received \$500.



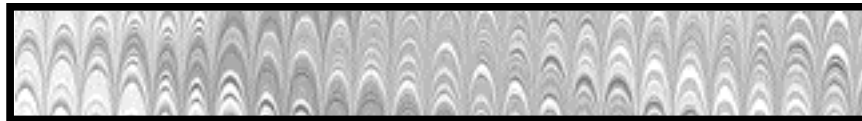
Celebrating Hispanic Heritage

Informational Resources

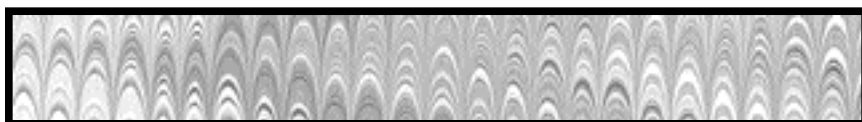
The new No Child Left Behind Act, was signed into law by President George Bush on January 8, 2002, and it hopefully will positively affect many Hispanic communities, especially Hispanic children. Title III of the act, labeled *Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students*, estimates that \$665 million will go toward developing, establishing, implementing, and sustaining English proficiency programs for limited English-proficient children, including immigrant children and youths. This 49 percent increase in spending for English language learners is a huge leap toward narrowing the educational gap between white and minority students, including Hispanics. The enrolled English language learners will be tested annually in order for teachers and parents to track progress. One hundred million dollars will be spent on preparing teachers on how to best educate limited English-speaking children in order for the students to have the best possible education. The Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs is working with the Lansing School District as it strives to meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. It will close the achievement gap with accountability and choice so that no child is left behind.

Secretary of Education Rod Paige announced a \$500,000 grant to the Hispanic Scholarship Fund and the Hispanic Scholarship Fund Institute to help create the Partnership for Excellence in Latino Higher Education, a three-year initiative to increase parental involvement in K–12 schools in Latino communities and to prepare Latino children to enter college. The partnership seeks to develop effective outreach strategies to Latino parents in order to empower them with information and resources to increase the success of their children in school. The grant is provided through the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Education. The funds will be used to research and analyze the scope and effectiveness of existing resources, develop new materials, and create and implement a distribution strategy based upon needs assessments in Latino communities.

Also, The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans Commission members Rosario Marin, the U.S. Treasurer, and Latin recording artist Jon Secada unveiled a new and exciting bilingual Web site that provides parents with a one-stop center for information to increase college knowledge. Located at www.YesICan.gov; www.YoSiPuedo.gov, the site provides information such as *Myths and Facts about College Costs*, *20 Questions to Ask Your Guidance Counselor*, and *Things You Need to Know About Paying for College*.



2000 Population
Michigan: 9,938,444 Hispanic 323,877
Bureau of the Census
MSD/FIA May 2001



Population Data

**The Hispanic Population (323,877)
is 3.5% of the Total Population in Michigan**

Geographic Area	Total Population	Race								Hispanic or Latino (of any Race)
		One Race							Two or More Races	
		Total	White	Black or African American	American Indian & Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	Some Other Race		
Michigan	9,938,444	9,746,028	7,996,053	1,412,742	58,479	176,510	2,692	129,552	192,416	323,877

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau American Factfinder, <http://factfinder.census.gov>

**Profile of Michigan's
Migrant Agriculture Labor Force**

NUMBER:	Approximately 40,000 (Michigan is the nation's fifth-largest user of actively transient migrant workers.)
ORIGIN:	70 percent from Texas and Mexico 25 percent from Florida 5 percent from other states
RACE COMPOSITION:	98 percent Mexican-American 1 percent White 1 percent Black
AVERAGE FAMILY SIZE:	3.5 persons
AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME:	\$7,500 for family of four
EDUCATION:	Adults: sixth grade Youths: ninth grade

SOURCE: MSD/FIA

2002 Accomplishments for the Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs Include:

- n Printed the 2002 Hispanic Heritage Month schedule of events calendar. There were 55 events throughout the state. Also, 800 students from throughout Michigan attended the Fourth Annual Hispanic Legislative Caucus, which was held September 25, 2002, at the State Capitol along with the recognition reception and awards dinner.
- n Co-sponsored the Annual Farmworkers Conference/Migrant Association Farmworkers Organization (MAFO) in San Diego, California. It assists in the development of national and state policies that provide the most effective delivery of services to migrants, farmworkers, and the rural poor.
- n Worked with the Secretary of State and Mexican Consulate in Detroit on the acceptance of the Matricula Consular identification cards.
- n Co-sponsored the annual dinner celebration with the Capital Area Cesar E. Chavez Commission, which seeks better working conditions for farmworkers, in conjunction with the Hispanic Student Conference. The keynote speaker was the award-winning actor and activist James Edward Olmos. He spoke to students from Michigan State University and Lansing Community College about the importance of education and staying in school.
- n Co-sponsored an annual conference in celebration and incorporation of indigenous wisdom into the workplace with the Hispanic Senior Citizens Coalition and the Michigan Indian Advisory Council on Aging.
- n Co-sponsored activities to promote student exchange between Lansing Community College and the community college in Guadalajara, Mexico, with the Lansing Regional Sister Cities Commission.
- n Co-sponsored workshops to ensure that the concerns of the Hispanic Community are being heard with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Workshops held February 15 in Flint and March 29 in Southfield covered I-485 applications, and medical and supporting documentation, and affidavit of support and waivers. A workshop conducted June 28 in Birch Run covered the citizenship form. It also provided training and a forum for community-based organizations. The information that was presented at all the workshops was disseminated to the members of the Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs and to Hispanic agencies and organizations statewide.
- n Co-sponsored conferences on Hispanic Education to address the staggering dropout rate of Hispanic youths, and to encourage postsecondary education. The March 14 conference was held for Sienna Heights University and Lenawee Intermediate School District; the March 22 conference was held for Lansing Community College and Michigan State University; and the April 25-26 conference was held for Grand Rapids Community College and Grand Valley State University.
- n Conducted a customer satisfaction survey in February 2002. Sixty-nine percent of those who responded to the survey thought that the publications/services of the Commission are above average. Ninety-five percent of the respondents thought that the Hispanic Heritage Month schedule and brochure were very important publications for keeping the Hispanic communities informed.
- n Co-sponsored a seminar on how to do business with state, city, and county government. The seminar was held at Grand Valley State University on August 13, 2002. Other co-sponsors included State Representative Jerry Kooiman, the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Lansing Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.
- n The Commission's Ambassador Program was a huge success. The Commissioners gave 28 presentations throughout the state in order to better inform the Hispanic communities of the programs and services provided by the Michigan Department of Career Development.
- n Co-sponsored a small business seminar with the Greater Lansing Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The seminar was designed to enhance the skills of small business owners and managers. Membership workshops were also held in late spring.
- n Co-sponsored with Lansing Community College the annual Cinco de Mayo event held on May 2. This event features traditional folklore dancers, and local talent, and focuses on the contributions made by Hispanic Americans in the battle for independence.
- n Co-sponsored the Annual Growers and Farmworkers Conference on July 26-27 in Lansing.

Accomplishments

Publications

- n **History & Purpose**
This brochure, written in English and Spanish, describes the Commission and its legislative mandates and functions.
- n **Hispanic Media in Michigan**
This brochure is a compilation of the Hispanic media (newspaper, radio, and television) in Michigan
- n **Hispanic Heritage Month in Michigan**
This brochure describes what Hispanic Heritage Month is and offers suggestions on how to commemorate the contributions of Hispanics in Michigan.
- n **Michigan's Hispanic Community...A Profile**
This brochure provides an extensive overview with graphs and percentages of Michigan's Hispanic community in regard to population, county concentrations, age groupings and composition, family types, marital status, education, and educational attainment. *(This document is being updated with Census 2000 information.)*
- n **Do It Yourself Personal Protection Order** (in Spanish only)
This brochure explains what a personal protection order (PPO) is and how it offers protection from harassment, assault, molesting, and stalking, and explains how to go about obtaining a PPO.
- n **Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs Fact Sheet**
This is a one-page fact sheet that provides information on the Commission's purpose and activities.
- n **Hispanic Resource Directory**
This directory is a compilation of services and agencies, listed by county, that are available. *(This document is currently being updated.)*
- n **2001 Annual Report**
A report of the Commission's accomplishments and activities for the year.
- n **2000 Annual Report**
A report of the Commission's accomplishments and activities for the year.

You may receive copies of any of the Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs' publications by writing to:

Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs
Michigan Department of Career Development
201 N. Washington Square, Third Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48913
(517) 373-8339 ? E-mail: cossa@michigan.gov

State of Michigan
Michigan Department of Career Development
Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs
Quantity: 500; Cost: \$436.42; Unit Cost: \$0.873; 0403-682
The Michigan Department of Career Development is an equal opportunity employer/program.
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.